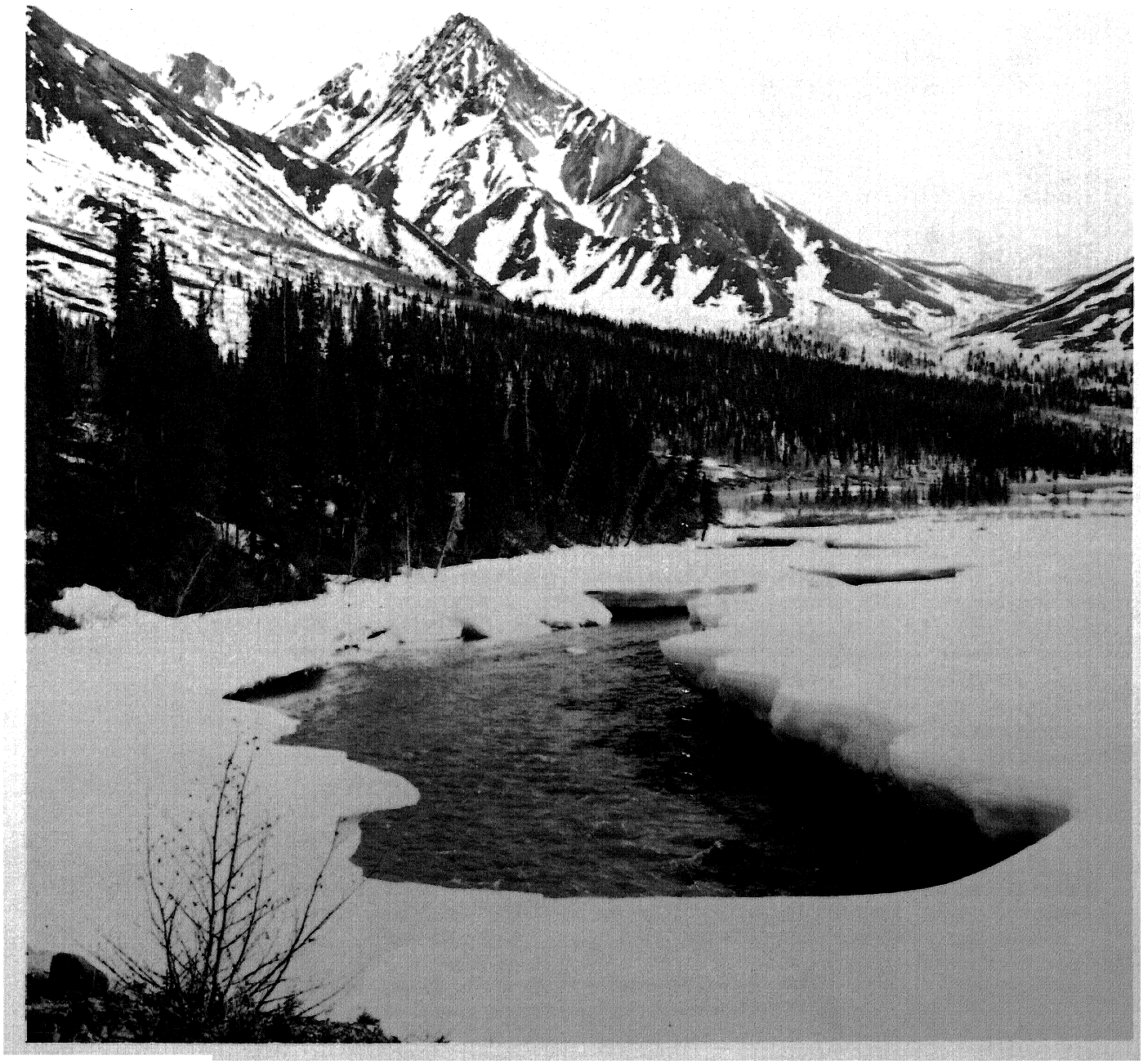
United States
Department of
Agriculture

**Soil
Conservation
Service**

Salt Lake City,
Utah

Utah
Water Supply Outlook

June 1, 1987



Utah
Water Supply Outlook

and

Federal – State – Private Cooperative Snow Surveys

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GENERAL OUTLOOK

SUMMARY:

The heavy rains during the latter half of May have brightened the prospects for adequate water supplies this growing season but, with mid-summer flows of only 20-60% of average projected, water users relying on natural streamflow rather than stored water could be facing water shortages by mid-summer without continued heavy precipitation.

SNOWPACK:

Snowpack on June 1, following below normal accumulation and early melt this winter season, was only 15% of average statewide. Percentages range from 0% in southeastern Utah to 40% of the June 1st. average on the Uintas. Only the most protected snow courses in the highest accumulation areas at elevations greater than 9500 feet were still reporting snow. The Snowbird-Gad Valley snow course, for example, at 9700 feet had 5.2 inches of water content this year versus the long-term average of 29.5 inches. The heavy rains during the last half of May came in the form of snow at higher elevations which augmented the snowpack or at least slowed the melt rate. Without the May storms the snowpack could have possibly been exhausted prior to June 1.

PRECIPITATION:

Precipitation at mountain stations during May ranged from much below average on the Lower Sevier to much above average on the Upper Provo. Trial Lake, on the Upper Provo, received 8.6 inches of precipitation last month making this May the wettest since records began in 1952. Only two areas reported below normal precipitation--the extreme eastern end of the Uintas and an area in southwestern Utah running approximately from Fillmore to Enterprise. Elsewhere, rainfall amounts ranged from near normal on the Weber watershed to much above average over the remainder of the State. Valley precipitation during May followed the same trend as was reported at mountain stations with some stations in northwestern Utah receiving record rainfall while extremely dry weather was experienced from Scipio to Milford. Seasonal precipitation, October through May, is below normal over most of northern and central Utah, near normal over the western deserts and above normal at some eastern Utah stations.

RESERVOIRS:

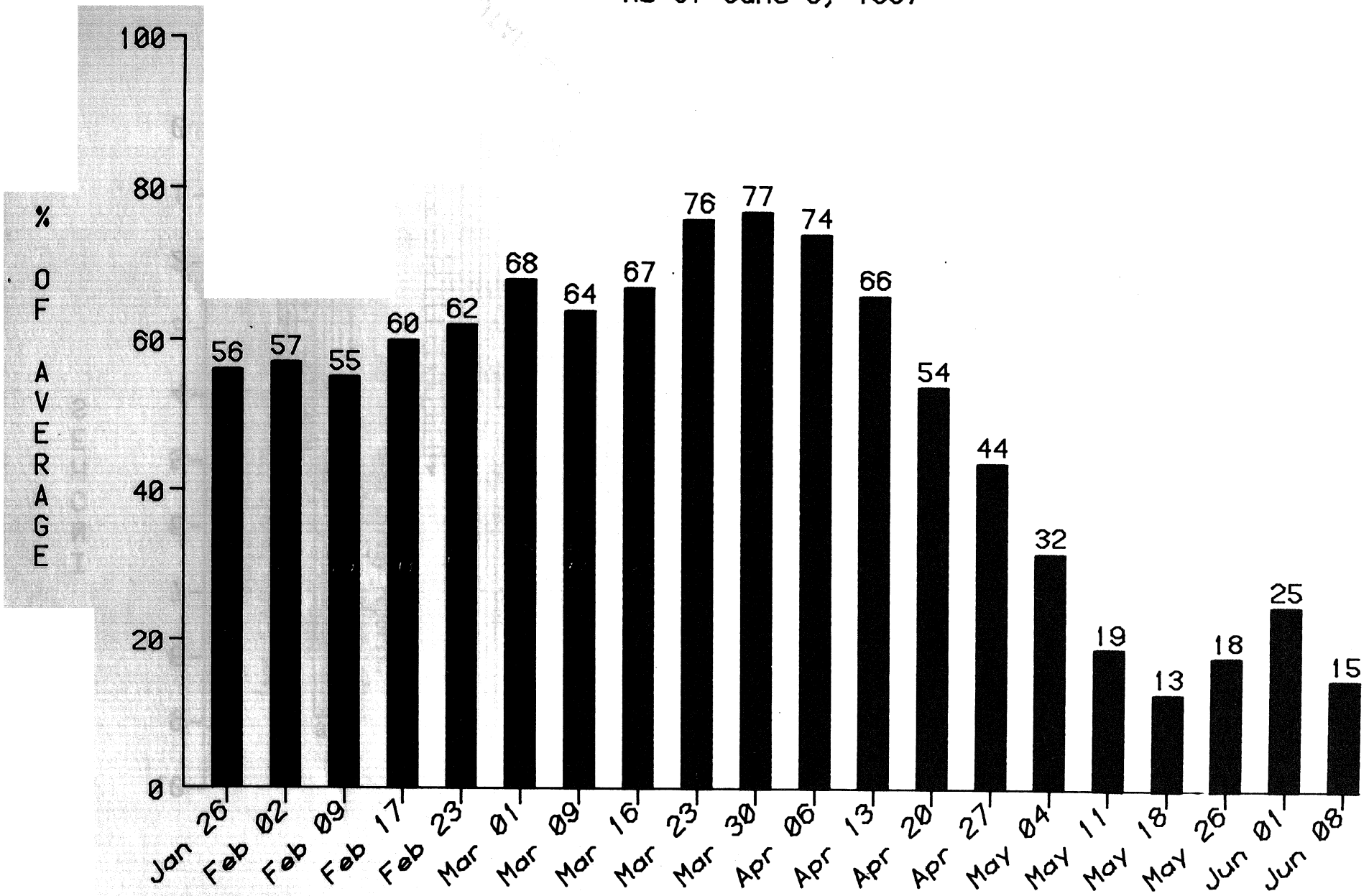
A sampling of 23 key irrigation reservoirs at the end of May showed useable stored water at 86% of capacity which is 109% of average for this time of year. Heavy rainfall during the last half of May enabled reservoir operators in northern Utah to reduce irrigation releases and, in some instances, refill reservoirs which had filled but had been drawn down due to heavy, early release demands. The importance of the May rains to late season reservoir storage cannot be overstated. They may mean the difference between shortages or adequate water supplies as the meager snowmelt runoff declines in the summer months. Reservoir storage now ranges from 66% of capacity in Pineview to 109% in Joes Valley.

STREAMFLOW:

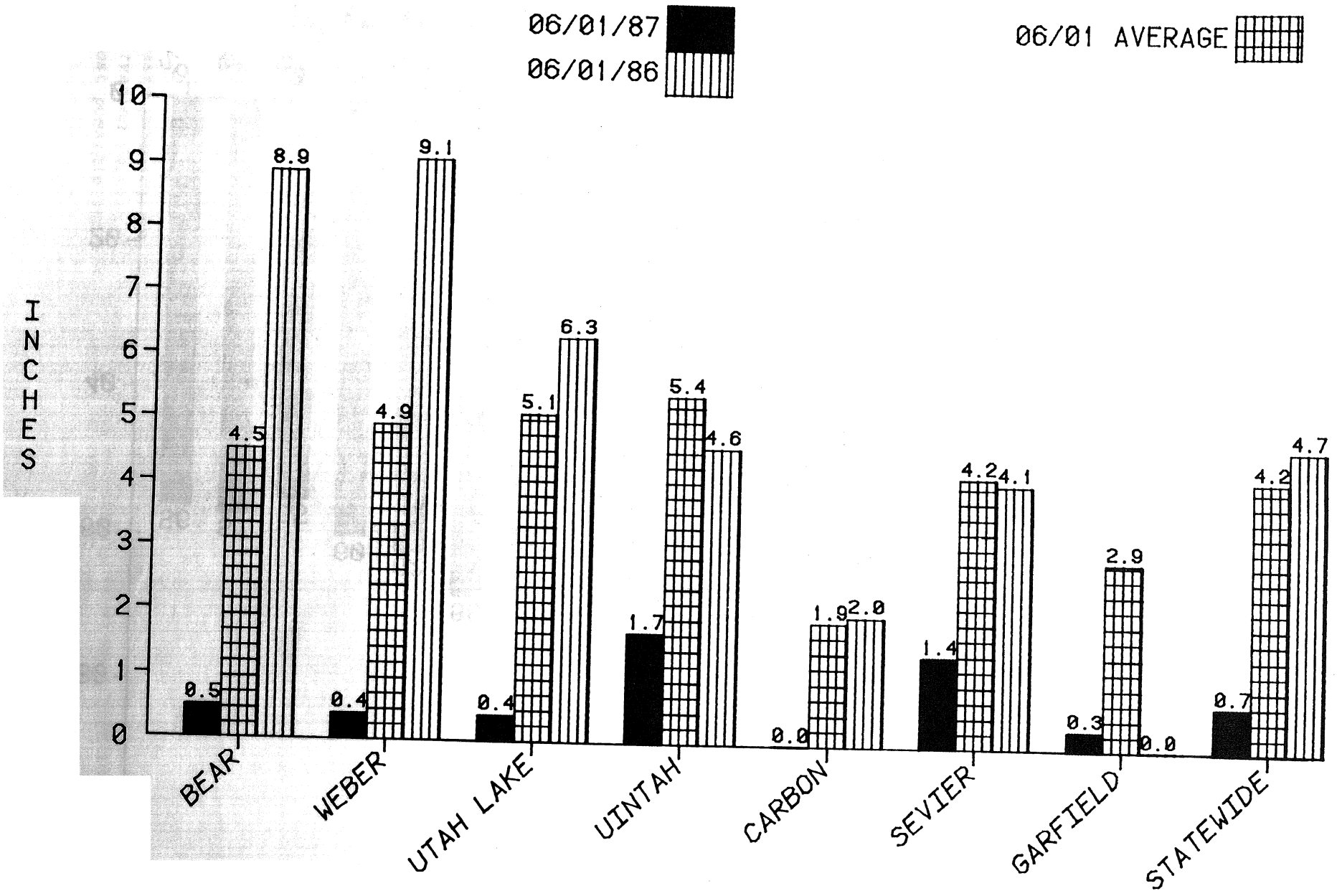
Record high rainfall on some areas of northern Utah during May increased flow from the levels that could have been expected from melt of the sub-normal snowpack. May streamflow ranged from one-fifth normal for inflow to Pineview Reservoir to slightly above normal on the Upper Bear. As the summer progresses streamflow is expected to decline to 20-60% of normal in many areas. Late summer flows on the Weber, Provo, Bear and Duchesne Rivers, for example, are forecast in the 40 to 60% of normal range. Water users relying on surface water supplies rather than stored or pumped water are likely to experience some shortages by mid-summer. Users relying on stored water will have adequate supplies in most areas.

prepared for this bulletin represent cooperative efforts of the Soil on Service and the National Weather Service in an effort to provide possible service to water users and managers.

STATEWIDE SNOWPACK PROGRESS
SNOTEL DATA
As of June 8, 1987



June 1, 1987


06/01/87
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BEAR
WEBER
UTAH LAKE
UINTAH
CARBON
SEVIER
GARFIELD
STATEWIDE

The Following Organizations Cooperate With The Soil Conservation Service In Snow Survey Work

State

Utah State University
Utah State Department of Natural Resources
- Division of Wildlife Resources
- Division of Water Resources
- Division of Water Rights
- Bear River Commissioner
- Price River Commissioner
- Provo River Commissioner
- Sevier River Commissioners
- Spanish Fork River Commissioner
- Utah Lake and Jordan River Commissioner

Federal

U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Soil Conservation Service
- Forest Service

U.S. Department of Commerce
- NOAA, National Weather Service

U.S. Department of Interior
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Geological Survey
- National Park Service

Municipality

Manti
Salt Lake City

Public

Beaver River Water Users Association
Board of Canal Presidents - Jordan River
Central Utah Conservancy District
Emery Canal and Reservoir Company
Moon Lake Water Users Association
Ogden River Water Users Association
Provo River Water Users Association
Strawberry Water Users Association
Sevier River Water Users Association
Weber River Water Users Association
Weber Basin Conservancy District